

CLAIMS

1. A method of facilitating comparative evaluation of a plurality of potential suppliers, the method comprising:

creating a scorecard further comprising a plurality of descriptive items relative to the potential suppliers, the descriptive items having item weights organized into a plurality of categories having category weights, wherein each descriptive item can be assigned a raw numerical score by a scorer;

distributing the scorecard to a plurality of evaluators;

collecting responses from at least some of the plurality of evaluators, the responses comprising the raw numerical score for at least some of the plurality of descriptive items; and

consolidating the responses to assign at least some of the plurality of suppliers weighted scores based at least in part on the raw numerical score, the category weights, and the items weights for the at least some of the plurality of suppliers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the responses further comprise a confidence factor which can be assigned to each of the plurality of descriptive items, and wherein the consolidating of the responses further comprises producing average confidence factors for at least some of the plurality of suppliers.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the responses further comprise an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating at least one report based at least in part on the weighted scores.
5. The method of claim 2 further comprising generating at least one report based at least in part on the weighted scores and the average confidence factors.
6. The method of claim 3 further comprising generating at least one report based at least in part on the weighted scores, the average confidence factors, and the indication of critical items.
7. A computer program product comprising a computer program for facilitating comparative evaluation of a plurality of potential suppliers, the computer program further comprising:
 - instructions for creating a scorecard further comprising a plurality of descriptive items relative to the potential suppliers, the descriptive items having item weights organized into a plurality of categories having category weights, wherein each descriptive item can be assigned a raw numerical score by a scorer;
 - instructions for consolidating responses from a plurality of evaluators based on the scorecard, the responses comprising the raw numerical score for at least some of the plurality of descriptive items, to assign at least some of the plurality of suppliers weighted scores based at least in part on the raw

numerical score, the category weights, and the items weights for the at least some of the plurality of suppliers; and

instructions for generating at least one report based at least in part on the weighted scores.

8. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the responses further comprise a confidence factor which can be assigned to each of the plurality of descriptive items, and wherein the instructions for consolidating further comprise instructions for producing average confidence factors for at least some of the plurality of suppliers.

9. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the responses further comprise an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

10. The computer program product of claim 8 wherein the responses further comprise an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

11. Apparatus for facilitating comparative evaluation of a plurality of potential suppliers, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating a scorecard further comprising a plurality of descriptive items relative to the potential suppliers, the descriptive items having item weights organized into a plurality of categories having category

weights, wherein each descriptive item can be assigned a raw numerical score by a scorer;

means for consolidating responses from a plurality of evaluators based on the scorecard, the responses comprising the raw numerical score for at least some of the plurality of descriptive items, to assign at least some of the plurality of suppliers weighted scores based at least in part on the raw numerical score, the category weights, and the items weights for the at least some of the plurality of suppliers; and

means for generating at least one report based at least in part on the weighted scores.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the responses further comprise a confidence factor which can be assigned to each of the plurality of descriptive items, and further comprising means for producing average confidence factors for at least some of the plurality of suppliers.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the responses further comprise an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the responses further comprise an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

15. A system operable to generate reports to facilitate comparative evaluation of a plurality of potential suppliers, the system comprising:

a user input screen operable to receive as input, information for creating a scorecard further comprising a plurality of descriptive items relative to the potential suppliers, the descriptive items having item weights organized into a plurality of categories having category weights, wherein each descriptive item can be assigned a raw numerical score;

functionality to collect responses comprising the raw numerical score for at least some of the plurality of descriptive items; and

a processing platform operable to consolidate responses based on the scorecard, the responses comprising the raw numerical score for at least some of the plurality of descriptive items, and to assign at least some of the plurality of suppliers weighted scores based at least in part on the raw numerical score, the category weights, and the items weights for the at least some of the plurality of suppliers.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the processing platform is further operable to produce average confidence factors to at least some of the plurality of suppliers based on confidence factors assigned for at least some of each of the plurality of descriptive items.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein the responses can include an indication of critical items from among the descriptive items.

18. The system of claim 15 further comprising a network connection to collect the responses.

19. The system of claim 16 further comprising a network connection to collect the responses.

20. The system of claim 17 further comprising a network connection to collect the responses.